

Review of SG Safeguarding6: Safeguarding oil and gas sites

1. Introduction

- 1.1 'SG Safeguarding 6: Safeguarding oil and gas sites' safeguards St Fergus Terminal for oil and gas related development. The purpose of this paper is to examine SG Safeguarding6 in light of changes in the national policy and local context.

2. Approach

- 2.1 'SG Safeguarding 6: Safeguarding oil and gas sites' safeguards St Fergus Terminal for oil and gas related development, and does not permit any other type of development in or adjacent to the site. SG Safeguarding 6 also notes the regional and national importance of the site, and therefore the need to safeguard it from any uses which may inhibit its current or potential operation.

3. Background

National Context

- 3.1 SPP highlights the importance of planning authorities taking account of the locational requirements of oil and gas development when identifying appropriate areas for development. It does not specifically identify St Fergus Gas Terminal as requiring protection in policy.
- 3.2 NPF2 highlights St Fergus Gas Terminal amongst a number of oil/gas terminals in Scotland. It is also identified as playing an important part in potential carbon capture and storage.

Regional Context

- 3.3 The Proposed Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2013 identifies the Peterhead and St Fergus area as being vital to the UK oil and gas industry. It is also highlighted as having significant potential relating to capturing, transporting and storing carbon dioxide under the North Sea.

4. Drivers of change

- 4.1 St Fergus Gas Terminal is a site of national importance which should be safeguarded for appropriate development by the local development plan. However, this protection is provided in the relevant settlement statement, and there is no reason for having a policy specifically protecting it.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 This policy should be deleted.

6. Summary

- 6.1 SG Safeguarding 6: Safeguarding oil and gas sites' safeguards St Fergus Terminal for oil and gas related development, and does not permit any other type of development in or adjacent to the site. This takes account of its strategic importance to the oil and gas sector, and its potential relating to

carbon capture and storage under the North Sea. However, the gas terminal is protected in the relevant settlement statement and there is no requirement in national or regional policy for a specific policy protecting it. This policy can therefore be deleted.

References

Aberdeenshire Council (2012) *Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2012*

Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan Authority (2013) *Aberdeen City and Strategic Development Plan: Proposed Plan 2013*

Scottish Government (2010) *Scottish Planning Policy*

Scottish Government (2009) *National Planning Framework for Scotland 2*